

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 1-3, 13-18, and 20-23 are rejected. Claims 4-6, 19, and 24 are objected to. Claims 7-12 are allowed. Claims 3-4, 7, 14, 19, 21, and 24 are amended. Claims 1-2, 13, 17-18, 20, and 22-23 are canceled. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 3-12, 14-16, 19, 21, and 24 are respectfully requested.

Amendments to Specification

Applicant amends paragraphs [0065] and [0093] to correct clerical errors, and amends paragraph [0033] to include updated status information for a referenced U.S. Patent Application. No new matter is introduced.

Allowed Claims

Claims 7-12 are allowed. Applicant thanks the Office for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim Objections-Informalities

Claims 3 and 7 are objected to because of informalities. In response, Claims 3 and 7 are amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful comments.

Claim Objections

Claims 4-6, 19, and 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if re-written in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant responds as follows:

Claim 4 is re-written in independent form to include the limitations of base Claim 1 and intervening Claim 2, and is therefore now allowable over the cited art.

Claims 3 and 5-6 depend from Claim 4 and therefore distinguish over the cited references for at least the same reasons as Claim 4.

Claim 19 is re-written in independent form to include the limitations of base Claim 13 and intervening Claims 17-18, and is therefore now allowable over the cited art.

Claims 14-16 depend from Claim 19 and therefore distinguish over the cited references for at least the same reasons as Claim 19.

Claim 24 is re-written in independent form to include the limitations of base Claim 20 and intervening Claims 22-23, and is therefore now allowable over the cited art.

Claim 21 depends from Claim 24 and therefore distinguishes over the cited references for at least the same reasons as Claim 24.

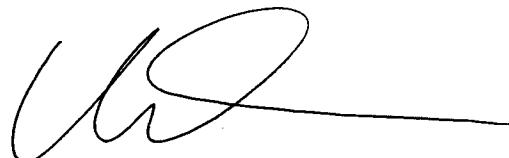
Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-3, 13-18, and 20-23 are rejected under 35 USC §102. These rejections are now moot in light of the above amendments to the claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments, it is believed that Claims 3-12, 14-16, 19, 21, and 24 are in condition for allowance and, therefore, a Notice of Allowance of Claims 3-12, 14-16, 19, 21, and 24 is respectfully requested. If the Examiner's next action is other than allowance as requested, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (408) 236-6646.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated

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